

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
CELLULAR SERVICE BY MTNL
A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India(COAI) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have once again raised objection pertaining to MTNL cellular telephone services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to find a remedy to rectify this draw back and start the already announced project of providing cheaper cellular telephone services to the public of metros within the stipulated period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (e): Sir, COAI have welcomed the entry of Department of Telecom Operations (DTO)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) into cellular services on level playing field conditions and have made a representation to TRAI against adoption of any discriminatory approach by DTO/MTNL. However, MTNL's cellular service based on CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) Technology is running successfully in Delhi and MTNL has further planned to launch its cellular services based on GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) Technology during the current financial year in Delhi and Mumbai.